Interview at 9246 Balcom St. , Northridge, with John and Cathie Pinto by Austin Conover and Museum assistant Osanna Chukhadarian.

Interview at 9246 Balcom St. , Northridge, with John & Cathie Pinto by Austin Conover and Museum assistant Osanna Chukhadarian.

The main thrust of this interview concerns the January 17, 1994, Northridge Earthquake of 6.6 magnitude.

Osanna: This is an interview on March 21, 1994, with John & Cathie Pinto by Austin Conover and his Museum assistant Osanna Chukhadarian, thank you.

Austin: How long have you resided in the Valley? Were you born here?

Cathie: We were born here.

John: We were born here.

Austin: How long have you resided in San Fernando Valley?

Cathie: For 39 years. My whole life.

Austin: Was that in the center part of the Valley?

John: Van Nuys.

Austin: Van Nuys?

Cathie: Around the block from each other.

Austin: Oh wonderful, wonderful.

John: Right there uh.....

Austin: And then uh you went through the Sylmar earthquake did you?

John: 1971, yes she did.

Austin: And and was were you here in Northridge?

John: No uh I was living at home with my parents and she was living at home with her parents.

Austin: That's in Van Nuys?

John: In Van Nuys.

Austin: And uh oh did that jar you?

John: Yes, where I was woken at 6:01 a.m.

Austin: Did you call her up and ask her if she was all right?

Cathie: No he got in the car and went around the block.

Austin: Oh how about.

Cathie: Ha ha.....

John: Ha ha.....Ya.

Cathie: He did..

Austin: Well it didn't disturb you at all then.

Cathie: Oh no, ya we were, we were it was we were waken by it. We were frighten by it.

John: Absolutely....

Cathie: No no, we thought that it was absolutely the worst earthquake that ever happened.

John: Ya, I remember.

Austin: Well now uh I don't was there after shocks?

Cathie: Yes but ya but not that, not that many that I can recall.

John: .... over six thousand.....

Austin: Yes..

John: A day on this...

Cathie: Ya...

Austin: Yes, uh huh.

John: Uh I don't remember any where near that number. I do remember after shocks.

Austin: You do?

John: Ya I do. That's where we first came familar that term after shock.

Cathie: Ha.....

John: ....

Austin: And then there no earthquakes that you remember till this last one.

Cathie: Oh we had one in....

Austin: Did you have one?

Cathie: We had one a couple of years ago.

John: Well we, we, we, felt the uh Wittier Nearrows uh quake.

Austin: Oh you did?

John: Which was...

Austin: Here in Here in Northridge?

John: It was the town of Wittier. Ya we both were living in this home. Uh I think it was a year ago.

Cathie: It was June of '82 , '92 ...28.

John: And uh then we weren't here but the uh one by the desert uh.

Cathie: Landers. Is it Landers.

John: Landers..

Cathie: Ya...

John: We were in Las Vegas and we felt it.

Cathie: Ya...

John: But our kids were.

Austin: You were, you felt it in Las Vegas?

Cathie: Uh huh..

John: Yes..

Austin: Oh wowwy that's a long way.

John: It was quite remarkable.

Austin: In other words that was pretty strong then?

Cathie: Ya..

John: Ya.....

Cathie: Ya.. 7.1.

Austin: Didn't they have earthquakes at Big Bear?

John: Ya I think so..

Cathie: Ya...

John: I don't know if we ever felt them. And they had it in Mammoth as well.

Austin: Yes, and you felt them?

John: No, we never felt them. But the one that sticks out of our minds is the Wittier.

Austin: The Wittier..

John: And uh and the one that's in .... Yucca Valley or where ever it is .... the desert area.

Cathie: Huh...

John: That's when we felt that.....

Austin: Pretty good.

Cathie: Ya..

John: Another one that compared to this one.....

Austin: Yes it was. Would you like to say something.

Osanna: Ya uhm, how did you guys. How was the after shocks last night, yesterday, Sunday?

John: Oh yesterday. Well 5.3 we understand.

Austin: Ya..

John: And it was .....

Austin: You were in the house here?

Cathie: I was here with my daughter and John was at a resturant with my son.

John: The resturant was crowded.

Austin: What...

John: After church and uh we were going to go play softball and Cathie had a funeral to attend so she came back to stay with her daughter. And we went out towards the park to play ball but we decided to have lunch first.

Austin: Oh...

John: And we were in a resturant. It was crowded. We're in a booth with a six people.

Austin: Ya..

John: And at one point the place started to shake.

Austin: Huh..

Osanna: Ha..

John: And I looked around and I noticed that there were, we couldn't go anywhere because, first of all we're in this booth.

Austin: Ha....

Osanna: What area was that in?

John: It was in Van Nuys.

Osanna: Van Nuys.

Austin: Ya..

John: ....Sherman Oaks I think?

Austin: Uh..

Cathie: ......

John: Van Nuys blvd.

Cathie: Ya..

John: And uh Magnoila. And then we, we noticed that uh, a uh a bus boy, he was the only one that got underneath the table.

Osanna: Ha..

Cathie: Ha..

Austin: Ha..

John: He had a good idea.

Austin: Uh huh..

John: And then it was over, but it was a lot of people uh "honey".

Osanna: Ha ha..

John: And a lot of concerns and again uh, uh the phone lines were busy. I tied to call home, but I knew she had headed home so I didn't know if she was here or not. So call to

see .....

Cathie: Ya..

Austin: Were you home?

Cathie: I was home. I was just so thankful because I was getting ready to leave and then my daughter would have been alone. Five more minutes more and I would've been gone. She would've been home alone. And she was playing the piano and she just gotton the courage to sit down and start playing it again. And uh she sat down and all of a sudden it started and the house sounds like a train is coming through here.

Austin: Uh..

Cathie: It was so scary, ha ha.. And said this had to be a 6.0 it had to be.

Austin: Uh..

Osanna: So how did you feel about your husband and your son being out there?

Cathie: I th... well I thought I forgot that they were going out for lunch and I thought they were on the softball field so I wasn't really afraid for their safety.

Osanna: Ya..

Cathie: I felt at least they'ld be out in the open space.

Osanna: Uh huh..

Cathie: But I knew he would be trying to, get in to us. Calling to us, make sure we were o.k.

John: There were so people that couldn't get through and uh finally uh the other person... had a cellular phone .... right inside there's a restaurant and he was able to reach his wife .... And then we tried a couple of times to get through and then finally we got through and she answered the phone and I asked her if she was o.k. So rather then going to play softball we went home.

Osanna: Ha..

John: ....

Osanna: And that was March 20, 1994 after shock.

Cathie: At 1:20. Ya, It was pretty scary it was almost like reliving the other one but, the othere one at least we

... this one we were awake and it's daylight. It's a little easier to go through then.... the daylight.

Osanna: Oh ya..

Austin: Yes now tell us about the, the uh January 17th?

Cathie: Well that was kind of...

Austin: You were, you were over here, asleep?

Cathie: We were asleep and we had a uh which is normal for our household. We had two quests. We always have a full house, ha ha...

Osanna: Ha ha...

Cathie And uh there's no school the next day and our friend James could spend the night, he broke his ankle the night before and he did not get home from the hospital until almost 1:30 in the morning.

Austin: Uhsh..

Cathie: And we had specifically put him up in the bedroom in the back and him all situated and put the chair so he couldn't roll off the bed. Mandy had her friend Andrea here and they slept in her room. And then we were just we were knocked out of our beds at 4:30. We just, we were knocked out of the bed.

Austin: We were asleep?

Cathie: Sound asleep.

Osanna: So where did everybody go at, did you guys all go in the hallway?

Cathie: We ya...

Osanna: Doorways?

John: We tried to get in the hallway.

Cathie: We tried we, we coul... we started running because our bedroom door was, was closed and he had to our armorial had fallen onto the bed. Which blocked his way to get through.

Osanna: Oh...

Cathie: And I went but I was out of sort so I went running into the bathroom and our toilet had come off the, the ground.

Austin: Uhm..

Cathie: And there was water everywhere...

Osanna: Oh wow..

Austin: Wowy..

Cathie: And I slipped and fell and then I realized where I was so I reached for the other door to get to the kids. And there's glass and everything was just flying everywhere it was it was so scary. And our daughter her room, he pushed the door open and grabed both girls out.

John: Ya they were ...

Cathie: And threw them into the hallway. And...

John: ....And they couln't get out.

Cathie: Ya and our son was locked in his room.

John: Television fell.

Cathie: His television fell and then James our friend with a broken ankle just was stuck laying in bed until it was all over, ha ha..

John: ...Him.

Austin: Oh..

Osanna: Oh...

Cathie: But we stayed in the hallway until, until it stopped and then our emergency lights when on, thank God we had those.

John: Ya, that was one thing that we have here...

Austin: Emergency lights?

Osanna: ....

John: We had uh purchased these little lights. Do you know where it is?

Cathie: No..

Austin: Cause you didn't have any light?

Cathie: That's right. All the electricity about a year and half ago Avon had a special on these little round lights for emergency.

come on in a emergency.

John: .....

Cathie: And you plug 'um in and so all of a sudden we turn around and there were those lights and they were in every bedroom.

Austin: Oh..

John: ...

Osanna: Oh...

Cathie: So they were lighting the pathway and you pull them out.

John: Storage..

Cathie: And you use them as flashlight.

Osanna: Oh, that's great.

Austin: Oh...

Cathie: So we were able to uh..

Osanna: Ya..

Cathie: We had to find shoes. Nobody could move.

John: ....Shoes..

Cathie: Ya, but we had to uh..

Osanna: That's important.

Cathie: Ya..

John: Ya, that was uh..

Osanna: I wish everybody had that.

John: I was really glad we had that.

Cathie: It was. What is it the best of ... made..

John: That was a big plus.

Cathie: Ya..

Austin: Yes was this just, just luck or intuition that you bought it this week?

John: We've had them for a while.

Austin: Oh, you have.

Cathie: Ya.

John: They've been plugged in over a year.

Cathie: Ya..

Austin: Over a year.

Cathie: We never really used 'em.

John: We never had to used them.

Cathie Never used 'em.

Osanna: Boy, they came in handy.

John: And they came in handy.

Cathie: And we had four five of them.

John: And they're back in the rooms now. We're still using 'em..

Cathie: Ya, ya. And I think they were a 1.99. There very inexpensive.

Austin: Ha, ha....

Cathie: Ha, ha.. Considering we didn't have a flashlight to seek for in the house.

John: Absolutely. Ya..

Cathie: Totally on prepared. But we uh got our shoes on and, and uh tried, John picked James up from the bed carried him out the front door.

Austin: Uh..

Cathie: And....

John: There were broken glass everywhere.

Cathie: You know you were just..

John: You couldn't walk down the hallway. It had a everything had come out the ....

Cathie: And our hallway is like a picture gallery so all the all the those frames had fallen down and broken and shaderd all over the carpet.

Pinto

Cathie: Our hallway was like a picture gallery. Now all (the pictures) had fallen down and broken. Glass was everywhere on the carpet. Everything from our linen closet had come out. Covering our path to get out. And as you're walking out you're looking at everything with our flashlight. I saw my curio cabinet. Everything in it turned over. My daughter said, 'Mom, keep going, get out of the house.'"

John: We just ran out of the house. Our neighbors were out in the street waiting for us to come out.

Cathie: We had to get the dog leashed. Fortunately he was safely with us. And we checked on the Chinese rabbit.

John: We got outside okay. With all this noise, the junble of going back and forth.The house alarm was going off, the car alarms going off.So all this extra noise and screaming. (Our) problem was compounded.

Cathie: It was like standing on a pot of boiling water. The house never topped moving. We were out in the street. And it was the same thing. The earth was moving.

Osanna: whoo, whoo.

John: Everybody helped shut off the gas ... the power and everything. And then one flashlight turned into two, four and finally we able to get in here and find a flashlight. Then we pulled the cars out of the driveway, onto the street.We didn't want to be inside the car.

Osanna: Right.

John: And the fire engines everywhere. We heard a lot of explosions... And ...the sky over there was ...

Cathie: Orange. They had a chemical something over there in the science lab.

John: The toxic fumes. And there were fires over the hills on the north side. You could see the glow from here.

Osanna: Oh, oh.

John: The fires were in the hills on the north side here in Northridge. No telephones, obviously. The car phone we tried to use and couldn't get connection to my mom. That was frustrating. So we stood out in the street with the neighbors until it got light. And we were still rock and rollin'. Cathy's dad came by. He had stopped by my mom's place and told us she was

time since the Northridge Earthquake, most students at CSUN started the first day of the fall semester Monday without taking classes in temporary trailers.

Four buildings reopened to students Monday after undergoing quake renovations. However, as students scrambled to figure out their schedules and locations of their classes, bulldozers trampled down the quake-torn library, administration and old computer buildings.

"I didn't realize how damaged it was. I saw a wrecking ball this morning," said Helena Clarke, 20, a freshman psychology major from Burbank.

Sitting in her French 101 classroom, Clarke didn't know she was among the first students back in the building, which had been closed for repairs since the January 1994 temblor.

But for the veterans of three-plus years of campus quake repairs, Monday was much more like a typical first day of school.

"We're getting back into the swing of things," said Vashon Nutt, a senior majoring in history and Pan-African studies.

Antonio Quezada, a sophomore liberal studies major, said it's a great benefit to have the buildings repaired and classes in a central location.

"It was so confusing because there were so many different trailers," he now."

The reopened buildings are Jerome Richfield Hall, Sierra Tower and the engineering and kinesiology buildings.

University officials reported no major problems, besides the usual back-to-school parking hassle. The parking mess is a signal the campus is on track to reach its prequake enrollment, with 26,325 starting class Monday, said John Chandler, a university spokesman.

Last year, the first day of fall classes drew 25,789 students.

"We have grown again," Chandler said.

The first-day-of-school number normally rises about a month into classes when a first census is taken to gauge enrollment. Last year, the fall semester census recorded 27,189 students, slightly in the shadow of the prequake, fall 1993 enrollment of 27,282, Chandler said.

As enrollment rises, the university is beginning to wrestle with how to financially accommodate the extra students. "It's not a long-term discussion, it's rather imminent," Chandler said.

Spring semester applicants, for example, will probably be faced with an earlier deadline, Chandler said.

As the numbers increase, quake repairs continue on the campus, which sustained $321 million in damages. About $190 million has been spent so far.

Evan Yee/Daily News

Sierra Tower is one of four major buildings that were reopened at CSUN. The others were Jerome Richfield Hall and the engineering and kinesiology buildings.

Wilson to remain at Cal State Northridge

hold down costs while enroll-

okay. He was going over to my brother's place and find out what had happened there.

Osanna: Oh, ah

Austin And your dad was in Northridge?

John: In Van Nuys . . . the same house where we grew up. The main thing we got the word back and forth.

Cathie: That was a big relief.

John: The girl that was staying with us was our daughter's best friend She was also 15. Her family lived in Canyon Country. They didn't know how we were doing and we didn't know how they were doing. So they got into their car and started the two hour journey to the Valley because of the freeway being damaged. Finally we hooked up with them. So it was a relief to us to know they were okay.

Osanna: There were work losses?

John: I didn't work for the first two days. Monday that week was a holiday and officially I wasn't home that day. The amountof damage and all the turmoil. I worked for Ralphs Grocery as a supervisor. We had several stores in the area that were damaged.

Osanna: You work at a store?

John: No, I don't work at any particular store. I'm a field supervisor. I travel through the chain. I was concerned about what had happened. Not able to use my phone. So I got into my car and traveled over to my boss' house. He was at home trying to get things in order. . .cleaning up his house. He told me, 'We had better get our things in order.' The next day I went into work. Three stores that were down for a little while. So we all pitched in. The Northridge store. One in Canoga Park and one out in Van Nuys at Woodman and Sherman Way.

Osanna: You did have some that were severely damaged?

John: One was in Granada Hills, Devonshire and Sherman Oaks.

Austin: The Sherman Oaks store?

John: Yes, the one at Venture and Woodman. We opened two of these last week.Sherman Oaks store was severely damaged. We plan to open it early in April, April 17 or so We had our work cut out for us to go out there and help these folks. It was really a great team effort from all the people. They came from all over. We had supervisors from

the San Diego area like myself who came over. We were devastated. They knew we were in trouble, that our homes were ruined. Finally we got the pieces together. Not by choice.

Cathie: I didn't work for a week. There were so many details. You know. We had to get the temporary fencing up. All the glass, all the cleaning up.Things had to be packed away so tehat there would not be further damage. All the toilets had to be fixed. The hot water heaters had to be fixed. I work in Encino. My boss is fableous. He said to take as long as you need.It took us at least a week to get an idea of what to do, getting the inventory done, the control . . .

John: And you had to close your office.

Cathie: Yes. My office is on the ninth floor.

Osanna: The building is okay?

Cathie: Yes, the building is okay. It was unbelieveable. They cleaned it all up. So I did not have to go back and do all that too. It took a full week just to clean up the house. We had no power. Once it got dark we were out of the house. We were not sure that the construction was safe. So we slept in the motor home outside. And the dogs would go into the motor home and sleep. Ha. ha.

John: There was another phase. The damage we had on the bedroom side . . . the wall. We noticed when we looked outside a bulge.

Austin: Oh, a bulge?

John: Yes. We had structural enginers over. We had a slippage in the foundation. It wouldn't be a good thing to be in the house with all the aftershocks. My brother had a motor home. He brought it over for us. We parked in the driveway here; and every night we would go in it and sleep.

Osanna: Ha ha...

Cathie: It didn't hinder how many kids slept in it. They all packed in there because they all packed in there. Anyway it didn't mater we only had.....

John: It was kinda of neat for a while. Uh because when you have an aftershock. You know you would... shaking there but it wasn't that bad.....

Osanna: Ya ya....

John: In the house you had the loud noise, the window and the raddling and everything else. Which you hate to hear that sound. I just rolled over and just went back to sleep .....

Cathie: Ya....

John: Then after a month things calmed down. It was getting cold. Very cold at and there was a heater in there but were actualy afraid to use the heater. Not being too familar with the system.....

Austin: And that was in Northridge too?

John: Ya that was uh, they lived in Chatsworth.

Austin: In Chatsworth?

John: And there home was uh red taged.

Pinto

Cathie: Our hallway was like a picture gallery. Now all (the pictures) had fallen down and broken. Glass was everywhere on the carpet. Everything from our linen closet had come out. Covering our path to get out. And as you're walking out you're looking at everything with our flashlight. I saw my curio cabinet. Everything in it turned over. My daughter said, 'Mom, keep going, get out of the house.'"

John: We just ran out of the house. Our neighbors were out in the street waiting for us to come out.

Cathie: We had to get the dog leashed. Fortunately he was safely with us. And we checked on the Chinese rabbit.

John: We got outside okay. With all this noise, the junble of going back and forth.The house alarm was going off, the car alarms going off.So all this extra noise and screaming. (Our) problem was compounded.

Cathie: It was like standing on a pot of boiling water. The house never topped moving. We were out in the street. And it was the same thing. The earth was moving.

Osanna: whoo, whoo.

John: Everybody helped shut off the gas ... the power and everything. And then one flashlight turned into two, four and finally we able to get in here and find a flashlight. Then we pulled the cars out of the driveway, onto the street.We didn't want to be inside the car.

Osanna: Right.

John: And the fire engines everywhere. We heard a lot of explosions... And ...the sky over there was ...

Cathie: Orange. They had a chemical something over there in the science lab.

John: The toxic fumes. And there were fires over the hills on the north side. You could see the glow from here.

Osanna: Oh, oh.

John: The fires were in the hills on the north side here in Northridge. No telephones, obviously. The car phone we tried to use and couldn't get connection to my mom. That was frustrating. So we stood out in the street with the neighbors until it got light. And we were still rock and rollin'. Cathy's dad came by. He had stopped by my mom's place and told us she was

okay. He was going over to my brother's place and find out what had happened there.

Osanna: Oh, ah

Austin And your dad was in Northridge?

John: In Van Nuys . . . the same house where we grew up. The main thing we got the word back and forth.

Cathie: That was a big relief.

John: The girl that was staying with us was our daughter's best friend She was also 15. Her family lived in Canyon Country. They didn't know how we were doing and we didn't know how they were doing. So they got into their car and started the two hour journey to the Valley because of the freeway being damaged. Finally we hooked up with them. So it was a relief to us to know they were okay.

Osanna: There were work losses?

John: I didn't work for the first two days. Monday that week was a holiday and officially I wasn't home that day. The amountof damage and all the turmoil. I worked for Ralphs Grocery as a supervisor. We had several stores in the area that were damaged.

Osanna: You work at a store?

John: No, I don't work at any particular store. I'm a field supervisor. I travel through the chain. I was concerned about what had happened. Not able to use my phone. So I got into my car and traveled over to my boss' house. He was at home trying to get things in order. . .cleaning up his house. He told me, 'We had better get our things in order.' The next day I went into work. Three stores that were down for a little while. So we all pitched in. The Northridge store. One in Canoga Park and one out in Van Nuys at Woodman and Sherman Way.

Osanna: You did have some that were severely damaged?

John: One was in Granada Hills, Devonshire and Sherman Oaks.

Austin: The Sherman Oaks store?

John: Yes, the one at Venture and Woodman. We opened two of these last week.Sherman Oaks store was severely damaged. We plan to open it early in April, April 17 or so We had our work cut out for us to go out there and help these folks. It was really a great team effort from all the people. They came from all over. We had supervisors from

the San Diego area like myself who came over. We were devastated. They knew we were in trouble, that our homes were ruined. Finally we got the pieces together. Not by choice.

Cathie: I didn't work for a week. There were so many details. You know. We had to get the temporary fencing up. All the glass, all the cleaning up.Things had to be packed away so that there would not be further damage. All the toilets had to be fixed. The hot water heaters had to be fixed. I work in Encino. My boss is fableous. He said to take as long as you need.It took us at least a week to get an idea of what to do, getting the inventory done, the control . . .

John: And you had to close your office.

Cathie: Yes. My office is on the ninth floor.

Osanna: The building is okay?

Cathie: Yes, the building is okay. It was unbelieveable. They cleaned it all up. So I did not have to go back and do all that too. It took us a full week just to clean up the house. We had no power. Once it got dark we were out of the house. We were not sure that the construction was safe. So we slept in the motor home outside. And the dogs would go into the motor home and sleep. Ha. ha.

John: There was another phase. The damage we had on the bedroom side . . . the wall. We noticed when we looked outside a bulge.

Austin: Oh, a bulge?

John: Yes. We had structural enginers over. We had a slippage in the foundation. It wouldn't be a good thing to be in the house with all the aftershocks. My brother had a motor home. He brought it over for us. We parked in the driveway here; and every night we would go in it and sleep.

Osanna: Ha ha...

Cathie: It didn't hinder how many kids slept in it. They all packed in there because they all packed in there. Anyway it didn't matter we only had.....

John: It was kinda of neat for a while. Uh because when you have an aftershock. You know you would... shaking there but it wasn't that bad.....

Osanna: Ya ya....

John: In the house you had the loud noise, the window and the ratling and everything else. Which you hate to hear that sound. I just rolled over and just went back to sleep .....

Cathie: Ya....

John: Then after a month things calmed down. It was getting cold. Very cold at and there was a heater in there but were actualy afraid to use the heater. Not being too familar with the system.....

Austin: And that was in Northridge too?

John: Ya that was uh, they lived in Chatsworth.

Austin: In Chatsworth?

John: And there home was uh red taged.

Austin: Meaning you can't go in.

John: So they had to bring the mobile home up there. They were living in their house all the time though their house was red taged. So we finally got brave and came back into this home. we went through all these aftershocks. The house was still up. "God will take care of us," we said. So we went back into this house We removed all the things from the walls so that nothing would fall on us.

Cathie: We had greater risk from damage on the floor than on the walls.

Austin: What about damage to the chimney? This chimney is okay.

Cathie: No, it is actually cracked on the other side.

John: We're not real sure.

Cathie: The chimney at the top really stayed up. They say that's because the fireplace is in the middle of the house. What happened is that it shattered from the bottom up, not from the top down. The floor underneath is all broken.

John: The weight of this knocked the ceiling down. Its vibration went this way and the quake went that way. Ironically it seems very secure up there on top of the roof. It seems to be in good shape up there but we don't know what is on the other side. We've got to take all of this off (pointing to the chimney surface). That would allow us to see what's back there. This is just the surface board (pointing to it). And we had some more crumblings yesterday.

Cathie: There was a smattering of the plaster.

John: We're not so sure (about the stability). This could be okay. That would be a plus, because (this kind of work) is very expensive.

Osanna: Do you have any brick walls that divides the area?

John: Four hundred feet down.

Cathie: We don't have any walls now. It was funny. It wasn't really funny, but looking back on it and checking on our neighbor. She is 77 and lives alone. We were very worried about her. I had a little flashlight in my hand. I was sort of disorientated when I walked into her yard. I couldn't quite remember where I was going.And all of a sudden I turned the flashlight on and I said, "Gee, that looks like our yard." And, oh my gosh, I looked at all the walls. They were down, flat as a pancake.

John: You could see everybody's yards.

Cathie: I'm so thankful that our dogs were with us in the house, because otherwise they would have gone. That would have been so painful to leave our dogs in something like that. We're real happy about having them with us).

John: You know what is funny about that (the walls down). It was the second or third day. We have an ally back here. Everything went down in the ally. There was a lot of homes on the other side that used the ally to get to their garages. So we had a block wall down on our property. So my father-in-law came over. My son and I put it onto my property. Then we find out from the city, a couple of days later, with all the tractors and trailors, to put it in the street. So we went and shoved it off our property into the street.
They came and picked it all up and no charge.

Cathie: We had four dumpsters rented and filled with all this debris from the house, the broken glass and the things in the garage . . .

John: Our car is being serviced now.

Cathie: $3,000.

Austin: The engine was damaged?

Cathie: No, it didn't hurt the engine . . . just the body.

John: There are holes in the car. And a dent on the side. It's a nice car. So they'll fix the whole thing up.

Austin: For fixing it,did you go through Ferma?

Cathie: No, our auto insurance. Comprehensive. There was a $250 deductible.

John: That worked out pretty good. It worked out real good. It (the car) will be as good as new when we get it back. (After the quake) I went into the garage and couldn't pick out the car. First the car door opener was dead. I had to do it manually. I couldn't see it. Flashlight in one hand and Everything from the shelves and from the rafters fell down. So I finally cleared a path. Okay? All this paint I had on the side, fell and spilled on the floor.

Osanna: Was it on the car?

John: No, it didn't hit the car. I put down a blanket and drove the car over it. I wasn't thinking the way the paint absorbs the blanket, the tires marking would be all over the driveway. I wanted to get the car out of there. I didn't want the car in there any more. Wow. It was just a total mess. All my tools were down. And I had a lot of them. All the bolts and screws . . .

Osanna: It was a mess to clean up?

Cathie: It was. You know what it was like. It was like moving out and moving back in. That's what you had to do.I still have two cupboards in the kitchen I haven't got to. There is still glass. Glass was everywhere.

John: I had to barrels ... shovels full of broken glass.

Cathie: That was the only way to get through the kitchen. Twenty-five washings of the kitchen floor. The only way you could get it clean. It have olive oil and a pot of lemonade. We had just had a party the night before. Ha. We're always having parties. All the things

John: Flew off the counter and broke . . .The dishes are gone, all gone . . .

Cathie: The TV and the piano fell over. Actually it crushed the piano bench. And all our furniture

John: We got everything fixed up pretty good. But I tell you everything was a mess. Everything on the walls broke. China (from the cabinet) came out and broke.

Austin: What about your water heater?

John: No.

Cathie: We had two.

John: They banged into each other. Now, they've been strapped. We had an inspector look at them. He said they look pretty good.